



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Second Crow Tests Positive for West Nile Virus

A dead crow found in the village of Webster has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV), according to Monroe County health officials. Statewide more than 30 birds have been reported with WNV. In addition, a crow found in the town of Perinton last month was the first time the virus was detected in Monroe County this year.

“The next six weeks are typically the riskiest period for human exposure and therefore a time when we ask the public, particularly our older residents, to take steps to reduce mosquito bites,” said Health Director Dr. Andrew Doniger.

WNV protective recommendations:

- Minimize outdoor activity between dusk and dawn
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants to cover exposed skin
- Use insect repellent containing DEET; be certain to follow manufacturer’s instructions and wash off once inside for the evening
- Drain standing water on property to reduce breeding areas

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), very few mosquitoes – less than 1% - carry WNV. If bitten by an infected mosquito, less than 1% of people become seriously ill; most people will have mild flu-like symptoms or exhibit no symptoms at all.

People over the age of 50 and those with chronic illness are at highest-risk for WNV. Although there is no vaccine or specific treatment, if a person develops severe symptoms, such as high fever and headache, they should consult a doctor.

Residents may call **234-9600** for WNV information or to report a dead crow.

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Communications & Special Events at 428-2380 or
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